

To whom it may concern:

I urge you to reject Verizon Wireless' petition to eliminate the need for portable cell phone numbers. As a consumer I feel I should be able to shop around for cell phone providers without having to get a new phone number every time I change service provider (as I can do with long distance and soon, I believe, for local service).

Without the ability to keep the same number, consumers will be hesitant to shop around and in effect will be held hostage by their provider. Furthermore, without the ability to change provider without changing number an unfair advantage is given to the first provider in an area.